

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO BANGKOK CANBERRA JAKARTA
MANILA MOSCOW PHNOM PENH SEOUL TAIPEI TOKYO VIENTIANE
WARSAW WELLINGTON BIEN HOA CAN THO DANANG HONG KONG NHA TRANG
JEC PARIS PEKING NAKHON CINCPAC FROM SECSTATE SEPT 13

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: SEPT. 13 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FANK BREAKS KOMPONG CHAM SIEGE, CLEARS MOST
OF CITY, CLAIMS MAJOR VICTORY. GKR SPOKESMAN SAYS
LAST KI STRONGHOLDS IN CITY BEING CLEARED THOUGH
REBELS STILL CONTROL TEXTILE FACTORY, PART OF UNIVERSITY
GROUNDS, PAGODA OUTSIDE OF TOWN, AND AIRPORT ROAD
REMAINS CUT; FANK BELIEVES ESTIMATED 200 REBELS
TRAPPED. OVER 500 WOUNDED EVACUATED TO PP SEPT.
11 ALONE, MEDICAL SITUATION MAY BE BECOMING CRITICAL
(AP, SUN; UPI WP, NYDN, CHITRIB). WP'S GREENWAY
REPORTS FROM KOMPONG CHAM (SEPT. 12) THAT KI PRESSURE
LESSENS, CIVILIANS BEGIN TO REAPPEAR. THE RECAPTURED
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HOSPITAL AND MANY BUILDINGS WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED
IN HOUSE-TO-HOUSE FIGHTING; LOCAL FANK COMMANDER
ESTIMATES 400 TROOPS KILLED AND 1500 WOUNDED BUT
HAS NO COUNT OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES THOUGH HIS HQ

IS UNDERTAKING CENSUS OF CIVILIAN POPULATION TO DETERMINE NEEDS. KI STILL IN AREA IN FORCE AND GREENWAY BELIEVES THAT UNLESS REBELS PULL OUT COMPLETELY THERE MAY BE MORE ROUGH FIGHTING AHEAD WITH FINAL OUTCOME IN DOUBT, BUT THIS TIME FANK FOUGHT WELL AND MORALE SEEMS HIGH. BROWNE (NYT) REPORTS FROM

PP THAT FANK PLANS TO FLY 20 NEWSMEN TO KOMPONG CHAM SEPT. 13 FOR FIRST-HAND VIEW; THOUGH KI POCKETS REMAIN, NOW LITTLE SHELLING IN KOMPONG CHAM; BROWNE BELIEVES VICTORY WOULD BE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT FOR GKR IF BORNE OUT BY EVENTS OF DAYS AHEAD, SINCE BOTH LON NOL AND SIHANOUK PUT PRESTIGE AT STAKE ON OUTCOME AND LON NOL MAY HAVE WON. LON NOL DECLARED 2 WEEKS AGO THAT KOMPONG CHAM WOULD NEVER FALL, WHILE SIHANOUK PREDICTED QUICK REBEL VICTORY AND KI RADIO IMPLIED KOMPONG CHAM WAS REHEARSAL FOR UPCOMING BATTLE OF PP. KOMPONG CHAM ONCE CAMBODIA'S RUBBER CAPITAL BUT IMPORTANCE NOW MORE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN ECONOMIC OR MILITARY.

2. ROUTE 4 TO KOMPONG SOM CLEARED AT POINT 40 MI SW OF PP, BUT REMAINS CUT 16 MI FROM CAPITAL; KI STRENGTHENS GRIP ON ROUTE 5 TO BATTAMBANG BY TAKING 3 MORE MILES TO CONTROL 6-1/2 MILE TOTAL (UPI WP, CHITRIB; AP, SUN; BROWNE, NYT).

3. DRV DENIES IT IS DEVELOPING 12 AIRFIELDS IN SVN AND ADDS "IN THE LIBERATED ZONE OF SVN, PRG, DISCHARGING ITS FUNCTIONS AND EXERCISING ITS POWERS IN BOTH DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL FIELDS, IS DEJURE AND DEFACTO" (REUTER, HK).

4. GVN AND COMMUNIST FORCES BATTLE 6 HOURS AT BONGSON PASS FOR CONTROL OF HIGHWAY 1; 20 COMMUNISTS AND 13 ARVN DEAD (WP, NYT, NYDN, CHITRIB).

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5. ALL PAPERS REPORT INITIALING OF LAOS AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE SIGNED FRIDAY SEPT. 14, TO AVOID "INAUSPICIOUS" DAY OF 13TH (NYDN, NYT, CSM, WP; UPI; AP SUN, PHINQ, CHITRIB). ACCORDING TO RLG SOURCES, SOUVANNA SIDE WILL NAME MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, FINANCE, EDUCATION, INTERIOR, AND PUBLIC HEALTH. PL WILL HAVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ECONOMY AND PLANNING DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC WORKS, AND INFORMATION AND CULTURE. JUSTICE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WILL BE "NON-ALIGNED" (WP). MARKHAM (NYT) NOTES UNOFFICIAL DOTTED LINE WILL MARK OFF ZONES OF CONTROL AND REPORTS ONE RLG MINISTER AS SAYING THAT IF NVN DOES NOT COMPLY THE ENTIRE COALITION WOULD COME APART.

"I THINK THEY WILL LEAVE ABOUT 6,000 ON HO CHI MINH TRAIL WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE".

CHINA

6. MAO-POMPIDOU 2-HOUR CONFERENCE RECEIVES WIDE PRESS ATTENTION (UPI, NYDN; CHITRIB, WP; REUTER, SUN, NYT). REUTER'S PEARCE, IN PEKING, OBSERVES THAT IT WAS TWICE LENGTH OF CHAIRMAN'S DISCUSSION WITH PRES. NIXON. TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL'S BURNS (CSM) CONTENDS THAT DIFFERENCE IN MOOD BETWEEN STATE BANQUET SPEECHES TUESDAY -- CHOU WARNING OF SOVIET THREAT TO EUROPE, POMPIDOU AVOIDING DIFFICULT DETENTE ISSUE ALTOGETHER -- WAS INDICATION OF DIFFICULTY TWO SIDES MAY FIND IN REACHING ANYTHING BUT MOST ABSTRACT AGREEMENT WHEN EUROPE COMES UP FOR DISCUSSION.

7. CSM'S WOHL, IN SECOND OF 2 ARTICLES ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, SAYS USSR DISTRUST OF PRC HAS SHIFTED INTO HIGH GEAR WITH ONE-QUARTER OF RUSSIAN AIR FORCE REPORTEDLY STATIONED ALONG CHINESE BORDER AND NUMBER OF SOVIET DIVISIONS FACING CHINA INCREASED FROM 32 LAST YEAR TO 45, INCLUDING 3 HIGHLY MECHANIZED DIVISIONS, SAID RECENTLY ARRIVED. US AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ARE PONDERING "POSSIBLY AUTHENTIC" SO-CALLED "SAMOKHIN PAPER" THAT CLAIMS USSR, CONCERNED WITH CHINESE NUCLEAR CAPACITY, HAS MADE VICTORIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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WAR WITH CHINA ITS MOST PRESSING FOREIGN POLICY AIM. WOHL CONCLUDES THAT SOVIET PREOCCUPATION WITH CHINA NEVER HAS BEEN GREATER, AND KREMLIN SEEKS BREAK WITH PEKING, EITHER BY MILITARY MEANS OR BY HAVING PRC DECLARED BEYOND PALE BY WORLD CONGRESS OF COMMUNIST PARTIES.

8. NYT'S BINDER CITES REPORTS THAT US POLICY OF CONCILIATION TOWARD PRC IS CAUSING SERIOUS POLITICAL UNREST IN ALBANIA. IMPROVED SINO-US RELATIONS REPORTEDLY SPURRED MIDDLE-AGED PARTY OFFICIALS AND MANY YOUNGER ALBANIANS TO ASK ALBANIAN LEADERSHIP ADOPT PRC ATTITUDE TOWARD US. HOWEVER, HOXHA REJECTED SUGGESTION AS INIMICAL TO ALBANIAN SECURITY AND LAST MARCH BEGAN WIDESPREAD PURGE OF OFFICIALS AND CAMPAIGN AGAINST "BOURGEOIS-REVISIONIST INFLUENCE" AMONG ALBANIAN YOUTH.

9. PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA ARRIVED PEKING WEDNESDAY NIGHT (AFP, WP); MET BY APPLAUDING CROWD OF CITY'S MUSICAL ELITE, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND USLO'S JENKINS AND HOLDRIDGE. BUT EVEN "MEMORABLE" PEKING RECEPTION OVERSHADOWED BY EARLIER SHANGHAI LANDING, SAYS PHINQ'S

WEBSTER, WHERE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

FOR CHINESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS LED COMMITTEE WELCOMING ORCHESTRA AND LAUDED ORMANDY AT RECEPTION. ORMANDY "HAD BEEN UPSET AND DISAPPOINTED" TO LEARN EN ROUTE THAT ONLY 5 CONCERTS WERE SCHEDULED, ALTHOUGH HE HAD PROPOSED 7. HE RECEIVED 2 SURPRISES: SHEN SAID PEKING CENTRAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY DESIRED HE CONDUCT CHINESE MUSICIANS IN BEETHOVEN PERFORMANCE, AND DOS' FRANK TENNY MENTIONED THAT AN AUDIENCE WOULD ATTEND PHILADELPHIANS' THURSDAY AFTERNOON REHEARSAL. BEFORE LEAVING SHANGHAI, CHINESE NAVIGATOR AND RADIO OPERATOR JOINED US CREW, AND DOS' NICK PLATT AND CENTRAL PHILHARMONIC CONCERTMASTER CAME ABOARD.

10. NYT'S SCHONBERG ALSO NOTES REDUCTION IN NUMBER UNCLASSIFIED

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OF CONCERTS PHILADELPHIA WILL PERFORM AND "UNEXPECTED CURVE BALL" THROWN BY ASKING ORMANDY TO CONDUCT PEKING CENTRAL SYMPHONY. SAYS ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS ARE AWARE OF CULTURAL/DIPLOMATIC IMPORTANCE OF TRIP; ON PLANE, MANY SPENT TIME READING BOOKS ABOUT CHINA (SNOW, TOPPING, TUCHMAN, GALBRAITH, ET AL). EVEN LESSON IN CHINESE WAS GIVEN AND THERE WERE BRIEFINGS BY TENNY.

MONGOLIA

11. MONGOLIAN NEWS AGENCY REPRINTS UTGA DZOHIOI CHARGES THAT PLA SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY PENETRATING MPR TERRITORY; NO MENTION MADE OF ARMED CLASHES BETWEEN MONGOLIANS AND CHINESE. NEWSPAPER HAD ALSO CHARGED THAT PRC CARTOGRAPHERS HAVE DRAWN MAPS SHOWING LARGE CHUNKS OF MONGOLIA AS BELONGING TO CHINA. SUN'S ISAACS SAYS TONE OF ARTICLE INDICATED THAT POSSIBLE PRC-MPR THAW "HAS THOROUGHLY ICED OVER AGAIN."

THAILAND

12. THANOM TELLS WEDNESDAY PRESS CONFERENCE 127 US AIRCRAFT TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND UNDER AGREEMENTS REDUCING US MILITARY PRESENCE IN COUNTRY. SAYS 3,550 SERVICEMEN WILL HAVE LEFT BEFORE END OF MONTH. SQUADRON OF 12 F-111S LEFT TAKHLI TODAY FOR US (WP; UPI, CHITRIB).

KOREA

13. IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, US RENEWS PLEDGES OF ASSISTANCE

TO ROK UNDER 1954 MDT, DESPITE CURRENT MOVES OF
DETENTE BETWEEN KOREAS. ISSUED AFTER 2 DAYS OF
ANNUAL SECURITY CONSULTATIVE TALKS BETWEEN DOD SEC.
CLEMENTS AND SK DEFMIN. YU JAE-HUNG, COMMUNIQUE
SAYS U.S. HAS NO PRESENT PLANS FOR REDUCING 40,000
FORCES IN SK, BUT EXPRESSES HOPE NK "WILL DEMONSTRATE"
THAT IT INTENDS REACHING PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF KOREAN
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PROBLEM IN SPIRIT OF SOUTH-NORTH JOINT COMMUNIQUE
OF JULY 4, 1972 (REUTER).

BURMA

14. NYT'S WEINRAUB IN RANGOON REPORTS THAT ABRUPT
INCREASE IN HEROIN ADDICTION AMONG BURMESE YOUTH
HAS SPURRED "PLAINLY . . . FRIGHTENED" NE WIN GOVERNMENT
TO FIRST MAJOR STEPS AGAINST HUGE OPIUM-TRAFFICKING
TRADE. WESTERN NARCOTICS SPECIALISTS "ARE QUIETLY
BUYOANT" ABOUT BURMA'S STATED DECISION TO SUPPRESS
OPIUM TRADE.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

15. JACK ANDERSON WRITES AGAIN ON SEA NARCOTICS,
DESCRIBING CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S ENCOUNTER WITH SHAN
REPS IN BANGKOK AND THEIR OFFER TO STOP THE TRAFFIC
IN EXCHANGE FOR CASH AND HELP FROM USG IN THEIR
STRUGGLE FOR "AUTONOMY" FROM GUB. ANDERSON TAKES
OCCASION ONCE AGAIN TO REPLAY SOME OF HIS OLD
"REVELATIONS" (BASED ON PURPORTED CIA REPORTS) OF
NARCOTICS ACTIVITY IN SEA. NOTES THAT WOLFF FEARED
RED TAPE AND BUREAUCRATIC TIMIDITY WOULD LEAVE
SHAN OFFER DANGLING, AND TOLD ANDERSON'S STAFF THAT
USG "SEEMS FAR MORE EAGER TO WIPE OUT INSURGENTS
THAN WIPE OUT THE HEROIN TRADE."

16. BRADSHER (S-N SEPT. 12), IN HK FINDS EVIDENCE
ACCUMULATING THAT PRC "IS GRAVELY WORRIED" OVER
POPULATION GROWTH, AND "DRACONIAN MEASURES" ARE
UNDERWAY ATTEMPTING CHECK IT, INCLUDING STRONG
PRESSURE FOR WOMEN WITH TWO CHILDREN TO HAVE
ABORTIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS OR DENIALS OF FOOD
RATIONS TO EXTRA CHILDREN. WITH ESTIMATED POPULATION
OF 816 TO 850 MILLION (INCREASING AT ABOUT 17
MILLION EACH YEAR), CHINA IS CONCERNED THAT SUCH

HIGH GROWTH IS INCONSISTENT WITH DECLINING HARVESTS.
WITH LARGE-SCALE GRAIN IMPORTS REQUIRED, LESS CAN
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BE SPENT ON IMPORTING INDUSTRIAL GOODS. BUT USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FORCE RATHER THAN POLITICAL PERSUASION TO CURB POPULATION GROWTH HAS STIRRED CONTROVERSY WITHIN CHINA. RADICAL CRITICISM SUGGESTS MAO CONSIDERS THIS APPROACH WRONG, SO IT MIGHT BE CHANGED.

17. LAT'S JACQUES LESLIE (SEPT. 12) REPORTS SCENE ABOARD LST BRINGING FANK MILITIA FROM PP TO KAMPONG CHAM BATTLE. SAYS MOST MEN WERE IN FESTIVE MOOD; SOME ENGAGED IN "SUGGESTIVE" DANCING, A FEW WERE DRUNK; TWO MADE JOKE OF PLAYING CATCH WITH HAND GRENADE; FEW WORE BOOTS, EVEN FEWER HAD HELMETS. AFTER FINALLY HAULING UP LANDING PLATFORM AFTER DUSK, SHIP'S CAPTAIN DISCOVERED MECHANICAL PROBLEM, AND AFTER DAY OF WAITING, SOLDIERS AND SUPPLIES WERE ORDERED OFF SHIP. LESLIE SAYS THAT EXCEPT FOR FEW WESTERN JOURNALISTS WHO MANAGED TO SNEAK ABOARD CONVOYS TO KAMPONG CHAM, NONE HAS REACHED BATTLE SCENE. GKR HIGH COMMAND ALLOWS THEM ONLY TO INSPECT SHIPS IN PP, NOT TRAVEL ON THEM.

18. GLOBE'S DOLPH ANDREWS POINTS TO AID BUDGET REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT FOR GVN'S "HUGE PARAMILITARY" POLICE TO CHARGE THAT USG IS VIOLATING ARTICLES 2 AND 9 OF PARIS AGREEMENT. CITES CON SON TIGER CAGES, CHARGES BY TWO FRENCH FORMER PRISONERS, ETC., TO PROVE THAT US FUNDS STILL BEING USED TO CONTINUE "POLICY OF SUPPRESSION" IN SVN WHILE US PUBLIC "IS TOLD SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT."

19. CRITCHFIELD (CSM) CONCLUDES REPORT ON PROBLEMS OF INDONESIAN URBAN POOR WITH CASE STUDY OF ONE BETJAK DRIVER FROM JAVA PEASANT VILLAGE. HE AND FELLOW DRIVERS ONCE TOOK PRIDE IN THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND IN BEING VITAL PART OF JAKARTA SCENE. NO LONGER WANTED, THEY ARE ROBBED OF SENSE OF DIGNITY AND PARTICIPATION. CRITCHFIELD DETECTS "VAGUE, TROUBLED SENSE" THERE WILL BE ULTIMATE EXPLOSION WHEN UNUTILIZED URBAN POOR, HAVING LOST THEIR OLD CULTURAL RESTRAINTS, MEET AND CLASH WITH RICH IN HEEDLESS PURSUIT OF CONSUMER SOCIETY.

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20. SHIPLER (NYT) FROM VIENTIANE DISCUSSES SITUATION OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS IN LAOS, SOME OF WHOM BROUGHT IN BY FRENCH AS CIVIL SERVANTS AND SMALL

MERCHANTS WHILE OTHERS LEFT NVN IN 1954, OR SVN LATER, IN SEARCH FOR SECURITY. VIETNAMESE DO NOT ASSIMILATE READILY, ARE STEREOTYPED BY LAOTIANS AS PETTY EXPLOITERS, MANY SUSPECTED OF BEING

COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS AND ALL ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO GROWING HARASSMENT WITH INCREASING RESTRICTIONS ON RESIDENT FOREIGNERS WHICH APPEAR AIMED CHIEFLY AT VIETS. SHIPLER IMPLIES THAT WITH REAL PEACE MANY WOULD RETURN TO VN.

21. MOST PAPERS PROVIDE GENERALIZED COVERAGE OF GATT CONFERENCE IN TOKYO. LAT'S SAM JAMESON NOTES PM TANAKA'S OPENING STATEMENT THAT JAPAN WOULD PURSUE INCREASINGLY OPEN ECONOMIC POLICY AND HIS WARNING AGAINST ENLARGEMENT OF "CLOSED, SPECIAL INTEREST KIND OF REGIONALISM." BOTH SCHULTZ AND NOSAKA SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF TOTAL ELIMINATION OF SOME TARIFFS ON INDUSTRIAL GOODS, BUT NOSAKA SPOKE OF THIS AS LONG-RANGE GOAL WHILE SCHULTZ SPOKE OF TWO YEAR TIME FRAME. JAMESON SEES OTHER NOSAKA COMMENTS AS PUTTING JAPAN "SQUARE IN THE MIDDLE" BETWEEN EEC'S MONETARY REFORM FIRST POSITION, AND US DEMAND THAT MONETARY REFORM GO IN HAND WITH TRADE REFORM. QUOTES US DELEGATE AS EXPECTING JAPAN TO OFFER HEAVIEST ASSISTANCE TO AN OPEN TRADING POLICY ON AGRICULTURAL GOODS. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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